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He places the retina behind the basilar membrane, precisely where it was supposed to be by Gottsche.

THE SAC-LIKE NATURE OF THE WINGS OF INSECTS.<sup>1</sup>—Mr. G. Dimmock showed the two halves of a split wing of *Attacus cecropia*, in which the two layers of the wing had been separated by the following mode: The wing from a specimen that has never been dried is put first into seventy per cent alcohol, then into absolute alcohol, and from the latter, after a few days' immersion, into turpentine. After remaining a day or two in turpentine, the specimen is plunged suddenly into hot water, when the conversion of the turpentine into vapor between the two layers of the wings so far separates these layers that they can be easily parted and mounted in the usual way as microscopical preparations on a slide.

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### SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—No glaciers exist in the United States but those of the Pacific coast, as only here the atmospheric conditions are favorable, and the ice-streams of Mt. Hood are the only ones on this coast easily reached. Down far below the snow line, great seas of ice push their way through valleys they have cut for themselves. Their downward motion varying in speed with the slope of the channel and the weight of snow above, is constant—a few inches a day. The lower part is ice, higher, icy-snow; and where there is little thaw, pure snow. The fields of the ice are strewn with unassorted debris, from boulders weighing tons, to the finest sand which falls from the walls of the glacier valley. Near the foot of the glacier the rubbish is twelve inches or more thick, while in other places one can walk over nearly bare ice—aye, can travel for miles and study moraines, crevasses, ice wells, caves, ice tables and all the appurtenances of a first-class glacier without guide or alpenstock, ropes, or spiked shoes. The ice moves as only ice can, moulding itself to variations in the channel, and splitting across to form crevasses only when meeting some great descent in the bed. Melting extends up over the surface as well as at the base; the traveler steps across streamlets flowing upon the ice surface toward the base, perhaps to lose themselves in crevasses further down; and from the wedge-shaped snout of the ice giant pours a deluge of water, while down its face rains a shower of sand and rocks. The water assorts the debris, soon dropping the boulders, carrying the coarse sand further, and bearing to the Columbia much of the ashy sand that is filed off by the bottom of the glacier.—*Portland Oregonian*.

— Professor W. A. Rogers, of the Harvard Observatory, has reported to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in Bos-

<sup>1</sup> G. Dimmock, Pysche, May, 1884, p. 170.

ton, the results of his observations on the transmission of shock from the Flood rock explosion.

The air-line distance between the observatory in Cambridge and Flood rock is 190 miles, and the observations were timed as follows: Disturbance first seen, 11.17.14; instant of maximum disturbance, 11.18.03; disturbance ceased, 11.20.

The first vibration perceived was about a thousandth of an inch, and recurred at intervals for nearly two minutes, the greatest swaying of the mercury being over a space of one five-hundredth of an inch.

In this connection it is interesting to note that General Abbot reported that the shock from 50,000 pounds of dynamite, exploded in 1876 at Hallet's Point, was transmitted through the drift formation of Long Island, at the rate of 5300 feet per second for  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Assuming the figures of the Cambridge report as correct, and that the mine at Flood rock was exploded at 11.14, seventy-fifth meridian time, it took the wave just 194 seconds to travel 190 miles, or at the rate of 5120 feet per second. This is very near the rate of transmission observed by General Abbot, when the greatly increased distance is taken into account.—*Exchange*.

— While M. Pasteur, at his country retreat, has been developing a means of combating the spread of hydrophobia, alarmist notes have been sounded in the public press. There can be no doubt that hydrophobia is on the increase, and will continue to increase until the owners of dogs are sufficiently educated to recognize the preliminary symptoms of rabies. A dog that slobbers with hanging jaws, and barks unnaturally, should be destroyed. Dumb rabies is the most dangerous, perhaps, because the animal, while retaining a knowledge of his master and friends, is apt to be snappish, and bite without warning. Cauterization of such wounds is practically of little value, and the best thing that can be done is to suck the wound forcibly, so as to draw as much blood and fluid from the part as possible. At Monday's sitting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Pasteur read a long paper on this subject, and furnished proofs that his methods of inoculation had cured hydrophobia, and was easily practicable. Dr. Vulpian corroborated, from personal observation.—*English Mechanic*.

— The second division of the Zoölogischer Jahresbericht für 1884, edited by the zoölogical station at Naples, and now published at Berlin by R. Friedländer & John, has appeared and is devoted to the Arthropoda. It can be purchased separately, as can the other three parts. The present part is edited by Drs. Mayer and Giesbrecht.

— Carl von Gumpfenberg, of Munich, is preparing a monograph of the geometrid moths of the northern hemisphere, and

would like to receive from American entomologists copies of their papers containing descriptions of new species of this group issued since the publication, in 1876, of Packard's monograph of American geometrids.

— The lecture course of the New York Academy of Sciences opened on December 14th, by a lecture on the genealogy of the Mammalia by Professor E. D. Cope. The next lecture will be January 11th, 1886, by Professor E. S. Morse, on Prehistoric Man in America.

— Professor Joseph Prestwich has a treatise on geology in the Clarendon Press. He advocates non-uniformitarian views of geology.

— Professor H. Weyenburgh died at Haarlem, July 25. He was professor of zoölogy in the university of Cordova, Argentine republic. He did a great deal for progress in his science, and of a set of thorough-going entomologists in that country he was chief.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, at Berlin, Sept. 29th to Oct. 3, 1885.—The third and most important session of the International Geological Congress, which was instituted by an American committee of the A. A. A. S., at its Buffalo meeting in 1876, has just been held.

The first session at Paris, in 1878, was really a *pourparler* which broke ground. The next session at Bologna, in 1881, accomplished something, but was especially useful in preparing for the work of the session just closed by deciding to produce a geological map of Europe on a scale of  $\frac{1}{1,500,000}$ , and entrusting its execution to one committee, while another was appointed to devise some scheme for unifying the nomenclature and, where possible, of fixing the limits of various congeries of beds which had heretofore been differently understood by different geologists. The obstacles which faced these committees will be at once understood from this bare statement and will modify any hasty impression that, in fact, very little has been accomplished.

The two committees, or a majority of members of each, met at Foix, and at Zurich, during the four years which intervened between the Congresses of Bologna and Berlin, and the action of the congress which has just ended was almost exclusively confined to the propositions made in the printed reports of these committees.

Those who arrived in Berlin some days before the opening of the congress found, at the superb Bergakademie on the Invaliden